

The President's Daily Brief

10 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam continues to strengthen its air defenses in the southern half of the country. (Page 1)

Communist China has built defensive positions on Damanskiy Island, the site of clashes with the USSR last year. (Page 2)

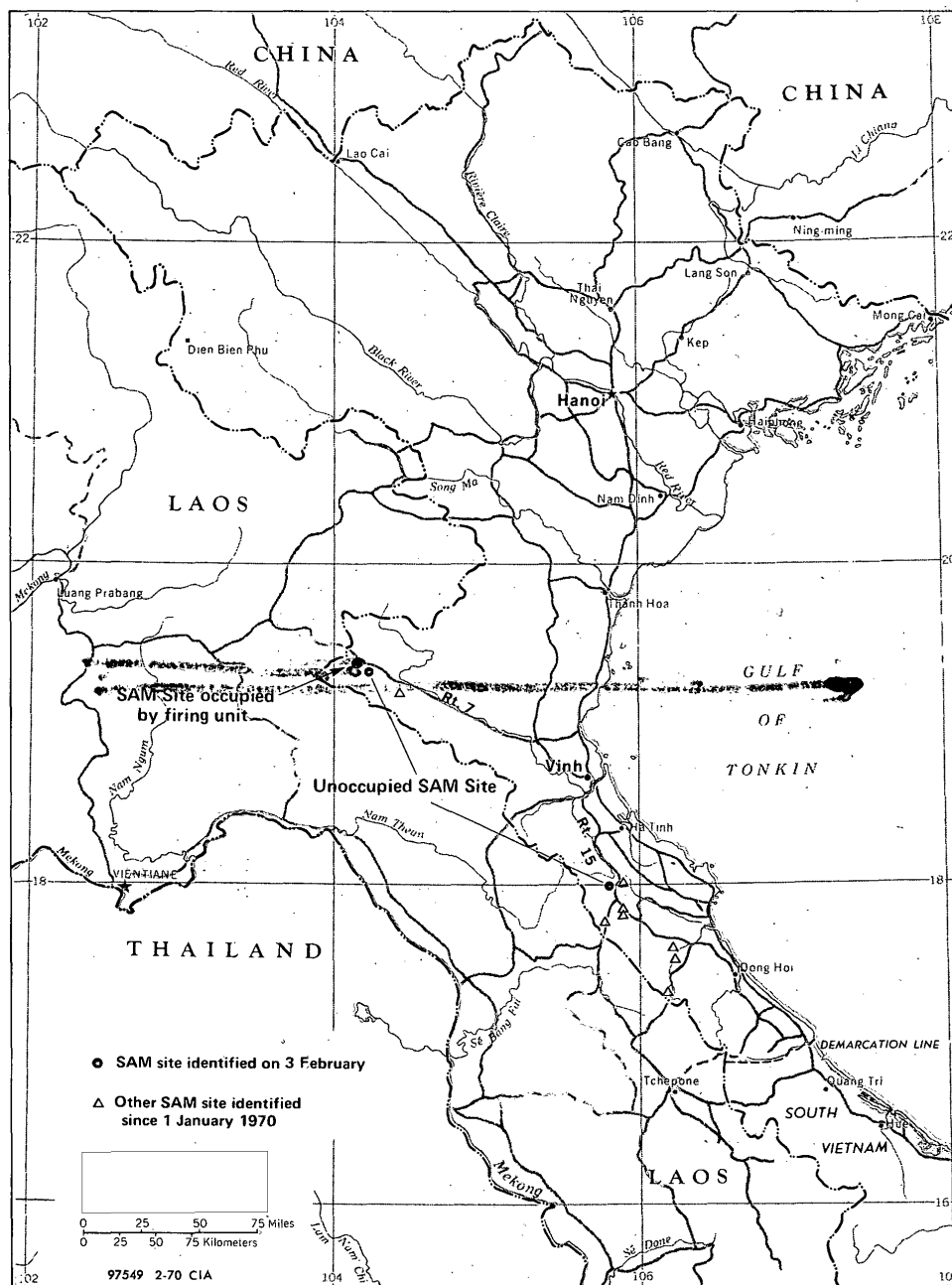
In an effort to calm the political scene, President Marcos has made some personnel changes in the government. (Page 3)



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North Vietnamese Continue to Beef Up Air Defenses in Panhandle



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NORTH VIETNAM

Aerial photography of 3 February shows three new surface-to-air missile sites in southern North Vietnam--two along Route 7 near the Laotian border, and another near Route 15. One of the sites on Route 7 was occupied by a firing unit; the others were empty. Eleven new SAM sites have now been identified in the southern provinces since the first of the year.

[REDACTED]

Two MIG-21s were stationed in Vinh during most of January, but at least one of them was moved to Hanoi after shooting down a US helicopter on the 28th.

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Hanoi has been strengthening its air defenses along the main infiltration and logistics arteries in the southern area and adjacent to the Laotian border for several weeks. The North Vietnamese probably regard these moves as a cheap and relatively safe way of inhibiting US air operations.

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A North Vietnamese press agency transmission indicates that Ha Van Lau, Hanoi's number two man at the Paris talks, is planning to return home. Unlike Xuan Thuy and Le Duc Tho, Lau has not left his post since the talks began in May 1968. Lau could be returning for briefings and consultations, but with Le Duc Tho now back in Paris after seven months in Hanoi, it would seem more likely he is simply returning on leave.

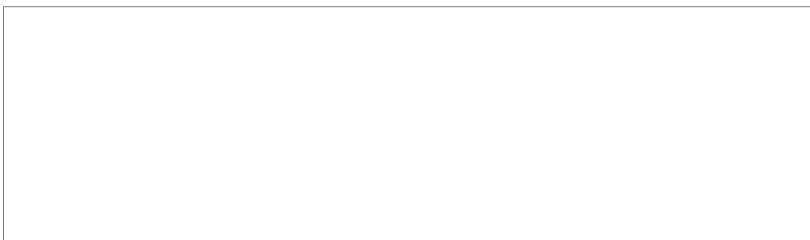
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Chinese

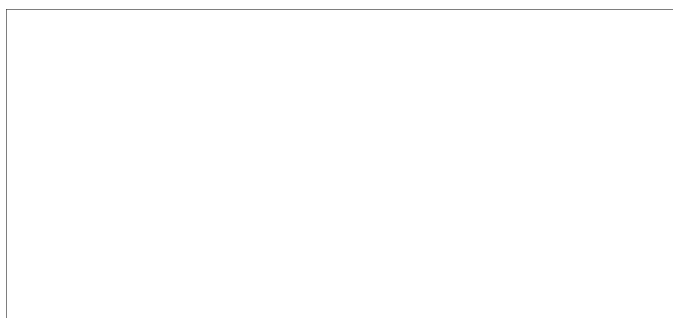
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COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR



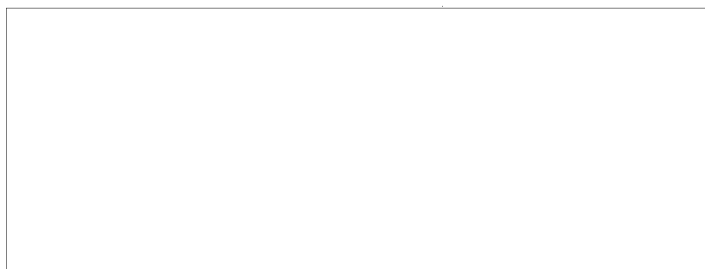
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PHILIPPINES

The threat of new disorders and demands for a government more responsive to the electorate have moved President Marcos to make some personnel changes. The removal of the Philippine Constabulary chief, who is particularly unpopular because of his role in election irregularities last November, has met with wide approval.

Reassignments within the cabinet have elevated men of demonstrated efficiency and probity. In order to regain a significant measure of public confidence, however, Marcos will have to follow up the new appointments with a genuine reform program, something he has been reluctant to do in the past. He may also have to dump some of his other blatantly corrupt cronies.

The Marcos administration will face its next test on 12 February, when leftist student and labor organizations are scheduled to hold new demonstrations. The decision of moderate student and labor factions not to participate in these demonstrations could blunt their impact, but nerves on both sides will be taut.

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NOTE

France-Spain: Foreign Minister Schumann told Ambassador Shriver yesterday that an agreement to supply Mirage planes to Spain may be announced during the current visit to Paris of Spanish Foreign Minister Lopez Bravo. Schumann seemed confident that the deal will be concluded and added that an allotment for Spain had been included in the Mirage production schedule. [REDACTED]

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